

William Lloyd Garrison
 Brooklyn, Dec. 16, 1835.

My dear brother Phelps:

Thanks for your Farmington epistle! I say to you, as the poet Gray's friend said to him, - next to the pleasure of seeing you, is the pleasure of seeing your hand-writing; next to the pleasure of hearing you, is the pleasure of hearing from you. To-day, in this little village, - which is most emphatically "all out-doors," - it is "as cold as Greenland" - in other words, it is very, very cold, the mercury ranging several degrees below zero: but you shall have a hasty scrawl from me, nevertheless, if my fingers do not stiffen before I get through - for though the water, and the ink, and the oil, are disposed to congeal, yet I defy cold weather to ice the stream of my affection for you.

Connecticut has been let alone too long by us meddling and pestiferous abolitionists; and I am rejoiced to learn that you have resolved to commence operations in this Georgia of New-England - not having the fear of Canterbury before your eyes! Every now and then, there will be an Ephesian uproar to strengthen and animate you as you move along. Should I venture to give you any advice, it would be this: by all means, in the commencement, shun such places as New Haven, Hartford and Middletown - all the large cities and towns, until the country is revolutionized. Begin at the outskirts, and work your way as quietly as possible into the centres. It is in this manner that Rhode Island has been almost entirely conquered by bro. Stanton, with scarcely a single tumult. He avoided Providence and Newport, and began with remote villages, and now more than five hundred substantial names, both morally and politically, have been obtained to the call for a State Convention in

Hebunary. But you are an old counsellor, although a young man, and do not need any of my suggestions.

It makes me laugh (there is something, too, of ineffable contempt within me) to see the parade which some of our would-be abolitionists are making about the little book of the great Dr. Channing on slavery! The only portions of it which are of the least consequence or value, are ^{these} sheer moral plagiarisms which he has stolen from the writings of the abolitionists: the rest is a farrago of impertinence, contradiction and defamation. Witness the ready credence which the Dr. gives, in the Appendix, to the ridiculous and mendacious charge of Kaufman against Thompson! Our early prophecies are in process of swift fulfilment. We have blasted the rocks, decapitated the hills, filled up the valleys, and macadamised the road, and now the big folks are riding upon it in their coaches as proudly as if they had made it all - the cowardly and lazy drones! Not a pound of powder have they furnished - not a single drill ~~made~~ ^{made} - not a single spade, shovel or pick-axe wielded - not a single farthing contributed, to make a highway of liberty. And now, forsooth, that the work is almost completed, they mean if possible to monopolize ^{it} all, and to transfer the credit of its design and completion to themselves! This is a little more daring and barefaced than some other attempts of the aristocracy to defraud and proscribe the hard working-men. If there had been a single spark of magnanimity in the bosom of Dr. Channing, could he have assumed our distinctive principles, in vindication of which we have suffered so much odium, without acknowledging that we had cherished them as the apple of eye, whatever may have been the inelegancies of our style, or the rashness of our zeal? I know not.

What then? Are we jealous of rivalry, or covetous of applause? God forbid! It is of very little consequence who obtains the credit, provided the poor slaves are released from their servitude. But the apostolic injunction is a good one: - "Render to all their dues" - to the abolitionists the things which are the abolitionists' - &c. &c.

But the Dr. don't like our motto, "Immediate Emancipation": so don't our enemies. He wishes us to give it up: so do they. He is offended because we admit colored members into our anti-slavery societies: so are they. He thinks we are fanatics: they think so too. He advises us to disband our societies: so do they. He believes that slaves may be properly retained in bondage, for their good: so do all the slaveholders. He condemns us because we have sent our appeals and warnings to some of the southern oppressors: so do they. Turn to his chapter of "Explanations," and see what a nice distinction he draws between men's motives and their actions! How would such a rule work in our courts? Dear brother, don't fail most critically to review the book. No one can do so better than yourself. Strip the daw of his borrowed plumage.

Ho! Dr. Hawes is coming out - but he must "save his skins"! How humiliating it is to see so much hypocrisy, injustice and servility in the heart of a good man! All the S. D.'s will be out very shortly, and they will all steal our principles and abuse us roundly by way of compensation. You will observe that "our strength is in Truth and God." Human dignity cannot exalt ^{our cause} ~~the~~ human authority cannot add to its excellence. Still let us lean on the arm of Omnipotence, as we have hitherto done.

It is probable that our dear brother Thompson is now in England. Our enemies, I opine, will rue the day that they ever drove him out of this country. A voice will soon come thundering over the vast Atlantic, louder than the roar of its multitudinous waves.

Pray write again soon. Mrs. G. joins in sending affectionate remembrance to you and yourself.

Yours, with christian love, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Brook Wn Ct ^{Gingle. - Paid.}
Dec 16 Paid 10
Rev. Amos A. Phelps,

Farmington,
Ct.